By "means for treating" is meant any method or treatment that exposes a binding site of the binding agent on the Gram-negative bacterial antigen or on the Gram-positive bacterial antigen thereof. Such means include, without limitation, physical manipulation, including homogenization (with, for example, a Dounce homogenizer), sonication, and boiling. Other "means for treating" include treatment of the sample with chemical solutions or compounds including, without limitation, detergents (*e.g.*, SDS or octoxynol, which is sold under the trademark Triton®), alkaline lysis solutions (*e.g.*, a basic solution), acidic lysis solutions (*e.g.*, an acidic solution), EDTA, EGTA, surfactants, metal ions, cations, anions, chelators, and enzymes.

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 9-13 and 19-22 without prejudice.

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(i), please amend claims to read as follows.

1. A method for screening for the presence of a clinically relevant amount of bacteria in donor blood or blood product from a donor mammal for transfer to a recipient mammal comprising contacting a sample of the donor blood or blood product with a set of binding agents, wherein the set of binding agents comprises binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-negative bacterial antigen and binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-positive bacterial antigen, determining binding of the set of binding agents to the Gram-negative bacterial antigen and the Gram-positive bacterial antigen in the sample, wherein binding indicates the presence of a clinically relevant amount of bacteria in the donor blood or blood product and no binding indicates the absence of a clinically relevant amount of bacteria in the donor blood or blood product, and identifying the donor blood or blood product from the donor mammal determined to have an absence of a clinically relevant amount of bacteria as useful for transfer to the recipient mammal.

7. A method for screening for the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-positive bacteria in donor blood or blood product from a donor mammal for transfer to a recipient mammal comprising contacting a sample of the donor blood or blood product with a set of binding agents, wherein the set of binding agents comprises binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-positive bacterial antigen, determining binding of the set of binding agents to the

Gram-positive bacterial antigen in the sample, wherein binding indicates the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-positive bacteria in the donor blood or blood product and no binding indicates the absence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-positive bacteria in the donor blood or blood product, and identifying the donor blood or blood product from the donor mammal determined to have an absence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-positive bacteria as useful for transfer to the recipient mammal.

8. A method for screening for the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-negative bacteria in donor blood or blood product from a donor mammal for transfer to a recipient mammal comprising contacting a sample of the donor blood or blood product with a set of binding agents, wherein the set of binding agents comprises binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-negative bacterial antigen, determining binding of the set of binding agents to the Gram-negative bacterial antigen in the sample, wherein binding indicates the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-negative bacteria in the donor blood or blood product and no binding indicates the absence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-negative bacteria in the donor blood or blood product, and identifying the donor blood or blood product from the donor mammal determined to have an absence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-negative bacteria as useful for transfer to the recipient mammal.

14. A method for screening for the presence of a clinically relevant amount of bacteria in a donor tissue from a donor mammal for transfer to a recipient mammal, wherein the donor tissue is stored in a fluid, comprising contacting a sample of the fluid with a set of binding agents, wherein the set of binding agents comprises binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-negative bacterial antigen and binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-positive bacterial antigen, determining binding of the set of binding agents to the Gram-negative bacterial antigen and the Gram-positive bacterial antigen in the sample, wherein binding indicates the presence of a clinically relevant amount of bacteria in the donor tissue and no binding indicates the absence of a clinically relevant amount of bacteria in the donor tissue, and identifying the donor tissue from the donor mammal determined to have an absence of a clinically relevant amount of bacteria as useful for transfer to the recipient mammal.

17. A method for screening for the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-positive bacteria in a donor tissue from a donor mammal for transfer to a recipient mammal, wherein the donor tissue is stored in a fluid, comprising contacting a sample of fluid with a set of binding agents, wherein the set of binding agents comprises binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-positive bacterial antigen, determining binding of the set of binding agents to the Gram-positive bacterial antigen in the sample, wherein binding indicates the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-positive bacteria in the donor tissue and no binding indicates the absence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-positive bacteria in the donor tissue, and identifying the donor tissue from the donor mammal determined to have an absence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-positive bacteria as useful for transfer to the recipient mammal.

18. A method for screening for the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-negative bacteria in a donor tissue from a donor mammal for transfer to a recipient mammal, wherein the donor tissue is stored in a fluid, comprising contacting a sample of the fluid with a set of binding agents, wherein the set of binding agents comprises binding agents that specifically bind to a Gram-negative bacterial antigen, determining binding of the set of binding agents to the Gram-negative bacterial antigen and the Gram-positive bacterial antigen in the sample, wherein binding indicates the presence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-negative bacteria in the donor tissue and no binding indicates the absence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-negative bacteria in the donor tissue, and identifying the donor tissue from the donor mammal determined to have an absence of a clinically relevant amount of Gram-negative bacteria as useful for transfer to the recipient mammal.

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending. Claims 9-13 and 19-22 have been canceled; claims 1, 7, 8, 14, 17, and 18 have been amended.

The specification has been amended to acknowledge that Triton® is a registered trademark. Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.121(b)(1)(iii), a marked-up copy of amended specification is attached herewith as Appendix A.